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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

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For information, call:

Dennis Kostick, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-7715, Fax (703) 648-7722

E-mail: [dkostick@usgs.gov](mailto:dkostick@usgs.gov)

Jeff Milanovich (data), (703) 648-7982

MINES-DATA: (703) 648-7799

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

## SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE IN APRIL 1997

Natural soda ash production in April was 834,000 metric tons, 9% lower than the previous month's production, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Ending inventories were estimated at 251,000 tons, a 15% decrease from that of the preceding month. Wyoming trona production in April was 1,470,000 tons. Total production of chemical caustic soda as soda ash equivalent, based on data from all three producers, was 14,700 tons in April.

Apparent consumption of soda ash for March was 524,000 tons, 13% lower than the March 1996 level of 601,000 tons. Exports and imports of soda ash in March 1997 were 376,000 tons and 8,760 tons, respectively. The cumulative soda ash statistics through March 1997, compared with those of the corresponding period in 1996, were as follows: production 7% higher, imports 8% higher, exports 8% higher, ending stocks 15% higher, and apparent consumption 2% higher.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT SODA ASH AND NATURAL SODIUM SULFATE STATISTICS 1/

Period	Soda ash (Thousand metric tons)		Natural sodium sulfate (Metric tons)	
	Production 2/	Ending stocks	Production	Ending stocks
1996:				
March	789	257	32,400	20,700
April	855	215	24,200	23,400
May	876	260	15,500	11,300
June	885	284	26,400	14,700
July	850	296	21,500	12,300
August	847	264	24,100	15,700
September	857	223	26,000	16,400
October	909	290 3/	26,400	18,500
November	859	285	24,100	14,300
December	866	271	29,500	19,500
Total (Jan-Apr)	3,220	XX	112,000	XX
Total	10,200	XX	306,000	XX
1997:				
January	866	326 e/	24,800	15,700
February	766	275 e/	23,800	19,500
March	912	296 e/	27,400	22,100
April	834	251 e/	27,500	15,900
Total	3,380	XX	104,000	XX

e/ Estimated. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production data includes soda ash equivalent from soda liquors only. Soda ash equivalent from mine water is not included. Soda liquors for the current year 1997 are withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

3/ Because of previously unreported inventory in remote locations by one producer, ending stocks are somewhat higher than the level of prior months.

TABLE 2  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Saltcake		Disodium sulfate		Total	
	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value 2/ (thousands)	Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)	Other		Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)
					Quantity	Value 2/ (thousands)		
1996:								
March	270	\$35,900	2,000	\$172	2,350	\$576	4,340	\$748
April	349	45,300	8,260	646	31	16	8,290	662
May	217	29,000	104	17	63	38	167	55
June	337	43,800	13,300	1,290	43	17	13,400	1,310
July	315	42,000	12,500	695	29	20	12,600	715
August	392	51,100	2,440	189	6,620	956	9,060	1,150
September	329	44,400	1,690	151	23	8	1,710	159
October	392	53,600	2,060	210	119	679	2,180	889
November	255	34,800	1,190	140	108	545	1,300	685
December	367	47,700	14,300	1,250	103	36	14,400	1,290
Total (Jan-Mar)	884	117,000	20,000	1,530	2,670	707	22,700	2,240
Total	3,840	508,000	75,900	6,120	9,810	3,020	85,700	9,140
1997: 3/								
January	262	33,300	3,160	310	2,390	661	5,550	971
February	319	43,600	3,610	380	317	115	3,920	495
March	376	49,100	11,400	648	977	230	12,400	878
Total	957	126,000	18,200	1,340	3,680	1,010	21,900	2,340

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Free alongside ship (f.a.s.) value at U.S. ports.

3/ April 1997 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census, as adjusted by the U.S. Geological Survey, using Journal of Commerce trade data and information.

TABLE 3  
U.S. EXPORTS OF SODA ASH BY COUNTRY, 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	January	February	March	Total quantity	% of total
Argentina	6,150	12,100	10,100	28,400	3
Belgium	6,000	8,270	--	14,300	1
Brazil	17	21,100	38,100	59,100	6
Canada	26,200	28,500	22,500	77,200	8
Chile	--	20,000	--	20,000	2
China	--	9,010	27,500	36,500	4
Colombia	9,380	--	10,900	20,300	2
Croatia	12,000	--	--	12,000	1
Dominican Republic	--	--	1,770	1,770	--
Ecuador	--	--	4,480	4,480	--
France	10,000	--	22,200	32,200	3
Guatemala	41	2,120	--	2,160	--
Indonesia	19,100	23,500	29,400	72,000	8
Ireland	589	--	--	589	--
Israel	6,980	--	--	6,980	1
Jamaica	1,540	--	--	1,540	--
Japan	20,100	40,500	34,500	95,100	10
Korea, Republic of	26,500	29,900	37,500	93,900	10
Malaysia	8,100	10,300	--	18,400	2
Mexico	29,300	32,500	43,100	105,000	11
New Zealand	60	6,790	477	7,320	1
Panama	--	9	--	9	--
Peru	--	3,900	--	3,900	--
Philippines	7,150	15,200	12,500	34,900	4
Russia	--	--	477	477	--
Saudi Arabia	8,000	--	14,900	22,900	2
Spain	9,600	--	12,900	22,500	2
Switzerland	--	--	21	21	--
Taiwan	25,300	15,000	20,900	61,200	6
Thailand	23,400	24,500	25,500	73,300	8
Trinidad and Tobago	--	--	2,730	2,730	--
Turkey	5,030	--	--	5,030	1
Venezuela	1,990	16,100	2,980	21,100	2
Total	262,000	319,000	376,000	957,000	100

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 4  
U.S. IMPORTS OF SODA ASH AND SODIUM SULFATE 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Disodium carbonate		Disodium sulfate				Total	
	Value 3/		Saltcake 2/		Other		Value 3/	
	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)	Quantity	(thousands)
1996:								
March	9,460	\$1,330	13,500	\$1,150	2,920	\$220	16,400	\$1,370
April	8,510	1,200	11,200	993	1,950	186	13,100	1,180
May	8,440	1,130	13,700	1,330	1,690	184	15,400	1,510
June	8,770	1,200	14,400	1,400	2,250	342	16,600	1,750
July	8,630	1,180	9,940	987	3,800	405	13,700	1,390
August	8,310	1,140	11,700	1,110	2,940	270	14,600	1,380
September	10,500	1,440	14,400	1,400	1,550	193	15,900	1,590
October	9,340	1,260	12,200	1,200	1,300	163	13,500	1,360
November	10,000	1,380	11,600	1,120	1,460	173	13,000	1,300
December	9,450	1,290	12,800	1,320	2,270	292	15,100	1,610
Total (Jan-Mar)	25,000	3,520	35,800	3,230	10,200	775	46,000	4,010
Total	107,000	14,700	148,000	14,100	29,400	2,980	177,000	17,100
1997: 4/								
January	8,930	1,180	10,700	1,060	2,620	294	13,300	1,350
February	9,280	1,330	14,200	1,400	2,050	266	16,300	1,660
March	8,760	1,240	12,400	1,250	1,170	222	13,600	1,470
Total	27,000	3,760	37,300	3,700	5,850	782	43,200	4,480

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes Glauber's salt.

3/ Customs, insurance, and freight (c.i.f) value at U.S. ports.

4/ April 1997 data not available at time of publication.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 5  
U. S. APPARENT CONSUMPTION OF SODA ASH 1/

(Metric tons)

Period	Production	Imports	Exports	Net stock		Apparent consumption 2/
				increase	or decrease	
1996:						
March	789,000	9,460	270,000	--	72,000	601,000
April	855,000	8,510	349,000	--	42,000	557,000
May	876,000	8,440	217,000	45,000	--	622,000
June	885,000	8,770	337,000	24,000	--	532,000
July	850,000	8,630	315,000	12,000	--	531,000
August	847,000	8,310	392,000	--	32,000	495,000
September	857,000	10,500	329,000	--	41,000	580,000
October	909,000	9,340	392,000	67,000	--	460,000
November	859,000	10,000	255,000	--	5,000	619,000
December	866,000	9,450	367,000	--	14,000	522,000
Total (Jan-Mar)	2,370,000	25,000	883,000	--	49,000	1,560,000
Total	10,200,000	107,000	3,840,000	--	35,000	6,470,000
1997:						
January	866,000	8,930	262,000	55,000 e/	--	557,000
February	766,000	9,280	319,000	--	51,000 e/	507,000
March	912,000	8,760	376,000	21,000 e/	--	524,000
April	834,000	NA	NA	--	45,000 e/	NA
Total (Jan-Mar)	2,540,000	27,000	957,000	25,000 e/	--	1,590,000

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Production plus imports minus exports plus or minus stock changes.